

Regular Council Meeting
June 9th, 2025
Council Chamber – Clemson City Hall

6:00 p.m. Public Hearing: Budget FY 2026

Call to Order: Mayor Robert Halfacre at 6:30 p.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Halfacre

Members present: Mayor Halfacre presiding, Council Members Evans, Fulmer, Jones, Scott, Sherrill, and Smith.

Absent: None

Notification emailed: June 5th, 2025 to the Greenville News, the Journal, the Independent Mail, the Post and Courier, the Pickens Sentinel, the Easley Progress; WSNW Radio, WYFF, WSPA, and Fox Carolina.

Public Session: Mayor Pro Tem Scott presiding. MyCivic comment from Stephanie Platt, 103 Mountain View Lane, regarding paving and water meters.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting May 19th, 2025 were approved as presented.

Reports/Discussion

Receive a report from Emma Martin, Miss Clemson University 2025. – Mayor Halfacre introduced Miss Clemson University 2025 Emma Martin. She discussed her platform “Beat by Beat” regarding heart health awareness.

Receive a report from Jules Grass, Miss SC Teen USA 2024. – Mayor Halfacre introduced Miss SC Teen USA 2024 Jules Grass. She discussed her platform promoting women in sports broadcasting.

Receive a tourism update on the impact of hosting the Savannah Bananas in Memorial Stadium. – Tourism and Community Events Coordinator Lauren Gamrat presented the economic impact from the \$50,000 investment the city provided for the event. The \$50,000 came from accommodations tax funds. The estimated economic impact was \$846,000 for the event.

Discuss the process of appointing a Poet Laureate. – Public Information Officer Bree Sanders presented that a resident requested the city appoint a poet laureate. Other South Carolina cities that have a poet laureate are Greenville, Charleston, Columbia, and Rock Hill. Mayor Halfacre discussed potential partnerships after the person is appointed. Council Member Scott was in favor of the idea of appointing a Poet Laureate. City Administrator Andy Blondeau clarified that it would be a 3 year term, a \$500 stipend, and they must be a Pickens County resident.

Discuss FY 2026 CATbus agreements. – Transit Administrator Brian Fisher presented along with Administration Assistant Megan Ramey. They noted that we no longer have a contract with Seneca as in

previous years. The Red route will extend 15 minute frequency Monday through Thursday until 6:30pm. The Gold route is not currently grant eligible since it has only run for 2 years and 3 is the minimum requirement. Also, the Gold route will run all day on Friday's. The Town of Central route has changed to no longer include service on weekends or to SWU, which will reduce the hours.

Discuss a Notice of Application for a State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority by Spectrum Southeast, LLC. – City Administrator Andy Blondeau explained the process. This will be placed on the next agenda.

Discuss adding language to Chapter 2 Section 44 (c) (Public Comment Ordinance) to address the promotion of business like activities. – Council Member Jones explained his reasoning and there was general agreement among Council Members. It will be placed on the next agenda.

Discuss an amendment to the Ethics and Code of Conduct Statement for Elected and Appointed Officials. – Council Member Jones explained the history of the item and suggested the statement be sent to the various boards and commissions. Council Member Smith clarified the point to update the statement to clarify the restriction speaking only applies to outside of the meetings.

Staff Reports: City Administrator Andy Blondeau: Alli and Andy will be out of town for the SCCMA conference next Thursday and Friday. See Jeremiah for the MASC Annual Meeting registration.

Policy Action

Consider 2nd reading of 2024-R-04 proposed text amendment (Bonding Commercial Space in Mixed-Use Developments). - Planning and Development Director Nathan Woods presented with no changes since last reading. Council Member Scott made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to approve the 2nd reading of 2024-R-04 proposed text amendment (Bonding Commercial Space in Mixed-Use Developments). Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Consider 1st reading of an ordinance to adopt the FY 2026 operating budget. – Finance Director Leslie Wilder presented the budget. Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Scott, to approve the 1st reading of an ordinance to adopt the FY 2026 operating budget. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

Mayor-Council reports/comments/new business

Mayor Halfacre: The open water swim was this past Saturday with 386 athletes at 12 mile park.

Council Member Fulmer: Congratulated 50 mile run finishers Nathan Woods and Mark Cato. The Shaw Center will host a free will clinic event at Goldenview Baptist Church on 6/21.

Council Member Sherrill: The Call My Name tour will be held on 6/16.

Executive Session

Council Member Scott made a motion, seconded by Council Member Fulmer, to enter into Executive Session to discuss the City Administrator's Annual Review; SC Code Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)

After discussion, motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously voted to exit Executive Session and return to open session.

Following executive session,

Council Member Fulmer made a motion, seconded by Council Member Scott, to increase the City Administrator Salary to \$180,000 per year beginning July 1st. Vote on this motion was unanimous.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah Jackson, MBL

Approved

By: _____
G. Robert Halfacre, Mayor